

MCA Advisory



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Contents and Features:

From the Editor 2

Baron l' Estrade 3

A French Revolutionary War Medal from the
Battle of Yorktown.

John W. Adams

The Artischofski Medal 5

The history of Betts-37 and the Dutch Republic
in early seventeenth century Brazil.

John W. Adams and Dim Verschoor

Report for DNW Auction 8

13 July 2011

Christopher Eimer

Letters to the Editor 10

Vernon Section 10

MCA Chicago Club Meeting 11

MCA Calendar:

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January 5-8, 2012

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From the Editor

We just finished reading “*The Siege of Louisbourg, 1758*” by Hugh Boscawen, a direct descendant of Admiral Boscawen who led the naval forces in this engagement. Boscawen the younger is a tireless researcher, who has succeeded in amassing a wealth of new information on the tactics and personalities of both sides. The author sees his book as vindicating the strategic vision of William Pitt but, to this reader, it is the battlefield details which give the work its appeal.

Warren Baker of Montreal kindly sent us “*The Last French and Indian War*” by Denis Vaugeois. The book contains vignettes of the march on Montreal by three separate British forces. However, the focus is on a document granting safe passage to the Hurons of Lorette, efforts to locate the original, successful searches for contemporary copies and then the inanity of the Canadian judicial system, which transformed an unsigned safe passage into an enduring treaty. The book is not for everyone, perhaps, but it did get our attention. Thank you, Warren.

The big news in new books for MCA members is a work in process which has the temporary title of “*Peace Medals: Negotiating Power in Early America*”. It represents an absolutely heroic effort by Bob Pickering, curator of the Gilcrease Museum to whip ten dawdling authors into contributing groundbreaking essays on the subject of Indian peace medals. The Gilcrease, which is connected to the University of Oklahoma, has a fabulous collection of Indian artifacts, including medals, with many of the highlights now on exhibit, buttressed by content from the book. Bob’s gang of authors has put together an appetizing menu that will stretch the knowledge of even the wisest peace medal maven, which we give you herewith. 🍌

John W. Adams

Peace Medals: Negotiating Power in Early America

Authors and Titles Table of Contents

Title	Author
Introduction: <i>Searching for the Stories Behind the Medals</i>	Bob Pickering
Displaying the Source of the Sacred: Shell Gorgets, Peace Medals and the Accessing of Supernatural Power	F. Kent Reilly III
Tomás Prieto’s <i>AL MÉRITO</i> Spanish Indian Peace Medals	Barry Tayman; Tony Lopez Skyler Liechty
The Indian Peace Medals of Louis XV	John W. Adams
British Medals Depicted in Cherokee Portraits of 1762	Duane King
Washington Oval Peace Medals	George Fuld
French Donative Medals of Louis Philippe I	Bruce W. Arnold
Keokuk’s Peace Medals: Mirrors onto a Fractured Era	Frank H. Goodyear, III
Notes (by article)	
Bibliography (combined)	
Author’s bios	
Index	

Baron l'Estrade

by

John W. Adams

The Comitia Americana series has suffered from two factors. The first is the scarcity of original medals, a shortage directly attributable to the negligence of one of our Founding Fathers, Thomas Jefferson. This sad story is documented in Comitia Americana and Related Medals, pages six through ten.

The second factor is the lack of a medal for the penultimate action of the War, the Battle of Yorktown. True, Franklin's superb Libertas Americana references Yorktown, but it also references the Battle of Saratoga. Moreover, Congress never gave its imprimatur to the Libertas, despite Franklin's repeated request for such approval. The lack of a specific Yorktown commemorative is made the more obvious by the inclusion of a medal for Eutaw Springs, a relatively minor action leading up to the main event.

It is now too late for either void to be filled. However, an item from a recent sale in France (spotted by the inimitable Tony Lopez) gives a small measure of solace. It is a Royal and Military Order of Saint Louis awarded to Claude Amable-Vincent Roqueplan, the Baron de l'Estrade and also a lieutenant colonel in the French Army back in 1781. As it turns out, l'Estrade played a key role at Yorktown, but more of this later.

Named after the saintly Louis IX, the Royal and Military Order of Saint Louis was formed by Louis XIV in 1693, who decreed as follows: "The officers of our troops have distinguished themselves by so many actions of considerable virtue and courage....that, ordinary awards, becoming insufficient to the affection and thankfulness which we have for them, we have deemed it necessary to seek new ways to reward their zeal and fidelity. In this view have we decided to establish a purely military Order to which, in addition to the external marks of honour associated to it, we shall guarantee revenues and pensions which shall rise in proportion to them growing more and more worthy through their behavior." The Order, consisting of a gold badge on a red ribbon, came in three degrees: Grand-Croix, Commandeur and Chevalier, the latter being the degree awarded to l'Estrade. The badge features a portrait of Louis IX surrounded by the motto "LUD M IN 1693 (Louis XIV instituted this award in 1693)"; the reverse highlights a sword surrounded by a laurel crown and a white sash with the motto

"BELL VIRTUTIS PRAEM (reward of wartime valor)".



History is not replete with examples of smooth-working alliances, but the relationship between George Washington and the Comte de Rochambeau, the commander of the French Forces in the Colonies, was one such. In the summer of 1781, on the advice of Rochambeau, Washington bypassed New York and marched south to confront the British Army of Lord Cornwallis. The latter had landed in Charleston in 1780 and worked his way north through the Carolinas, defeating Gates at Camden and terrorizing the countryside with the maraudings of the cavalry of Banastre Tarleton. Cornwallis suffered a bloody check, if not a defeat, at the Battle of the Cowpens in January, 1781. He moved on up into Virginia, where, reduced to only 1500 men after heavy losses at Eutaw Springs, he was reinforced by Loyalist troops under Benedict Arnold and 2300 regulars under General William Phillips. Initially deployed to disrupt and destroy logistics, these combined forces fell back on Yorktown with orders to establish a deep water port.

At this point, French support for the Revolutionary cause reached its zenith. Not only did Washington have Rochambeau's infantry at his disposal, but he asked and received the support of the substantial naval forces under the Comte de Grasse, then stationed in the West Indies. With the French Navy denying the Chesapeake Bay to British relief efforts, the land forces encircled the British position on the Yorktown Peninsula. A conventional siege was begun, with the digging of trenches and the emplacement of artillery. Key to Cornwallis' defense was two positions on the Yorktown River, Redoubts

#9 and #10. It was decided to assault these strongholds, with the French assigned to take #9 and the Americans, under General Lafayette, to take #10.

Forces detailed for the attack by the French consisted of 400 chasseurs and grenadiers of the Gatinois and Deuxponts regiments. At the very head of the attacking column were 100 chasseurs from the Gatinois carrying fascines and ladders. At the head of these 100 were two experienced sergeants and two officers: the titular leader was the youthful Viscount de Deux Ponts but the de facto leader was the experienced Lieutenant Colonel of the Gatinois regiment, yes, the very Baron de l'Estrade of whom we speak at the outset. He was the first French soldier out of the siege trench, before the two sergeants and before the 100 chasseurs. Ahead to be overcome lay a fence of branches, a fence of fascines, a ditch, an abatis of pointed logs, then a steep wall and, finally, a palisade at the top or parapet of the wall. Given the strength of these obstacles, it is not surprising that the French forces deployed in the attack suffered a casualty rate of almost 25 per cent: fifteen of the French were killed in the attack and another 77 wounded. However glorious the result; the attack on Redoubt #9 was a bloody affair. It is worth emphasizing that, because the French attack on Redoubt #9 preceded the American attack on Redoubt #10 by several minutes, Lt. Colonel l'Estrade can claim the honor of having led the seminal charge of the seminal battle of the Revolutionary War.

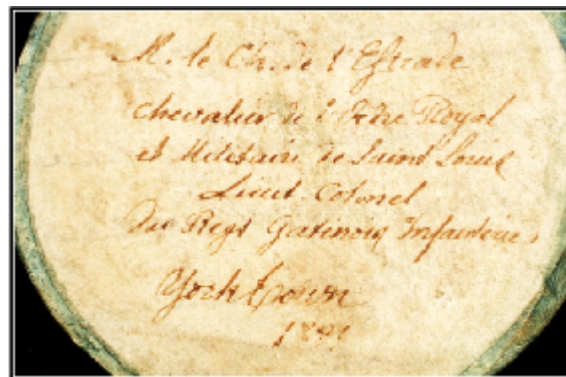
The esteem in which l'Estrade was held by his superiors can be inferred from actions taken after the battle. He was given a double promotion to brigadier general. In a letter from General Rochambeau to George Washington dated March 1st, 1784, he was one of only two field grade officers to be recommended for the French Society of the Cincinnati; and, of course, he was awarded the Military and Royal Order of Saint Louis. It is ironic that neither the author nor, in all probability, any other member of MCA has ever heard of the Baron de l'Estrade. Clearly, he played a major role in a major battle and, even more important, personified the highest fighting qualities of our French allies. It is fitting that his Order of Saint Louis now gives us one Yorktown collectable where before we had none.

L'Estrade's Order, made in enameled gold, is mounted on a walnut panel contained in a gold leaf frame (14"x17 1/2"), both panel and frame appearing to be of the period or perhaps a few decades later. The Order is affixed to a fabric encapsulated in glass within a bronze rim, below which LT COL DE

L'ESTRADE/REGI DE GATINOIS/YORKTOWN 1781:



On the back of the mount is written in cursive "M. le (illegible) l'Estrade/Chevalier de l'Ordre Royal/et Militaire de Saint Louis":



Below the Order is a terracotta bust of Benjamin Franklin (the standard Betts 548) in a gold leaf frame fitted to a cut-out in the panel:



The Franklin connection is something of a mystery in that, on April 23rd, 1783, George Washington wrote an introduction to the good Doctor on l'Estrade's behalf, but we have found no record of a subsequent meeting or an exchange of gifts. We enlisted the good offices of Kate Ohno, associate editor of the Franklin Papers to find some evidence of contact between the two men but none was found. Thus, Claude-Aimable-Vincent de Rocqueplan, Baron de l'Estrade cannot aspire to intimacy with our Founding Fathers, but he certainly serves full recognition for his heroic contribution to the noble victory at Yorktown. 🍌

The Artischofski Medal

by

John W. Adams and Dim Verschoor

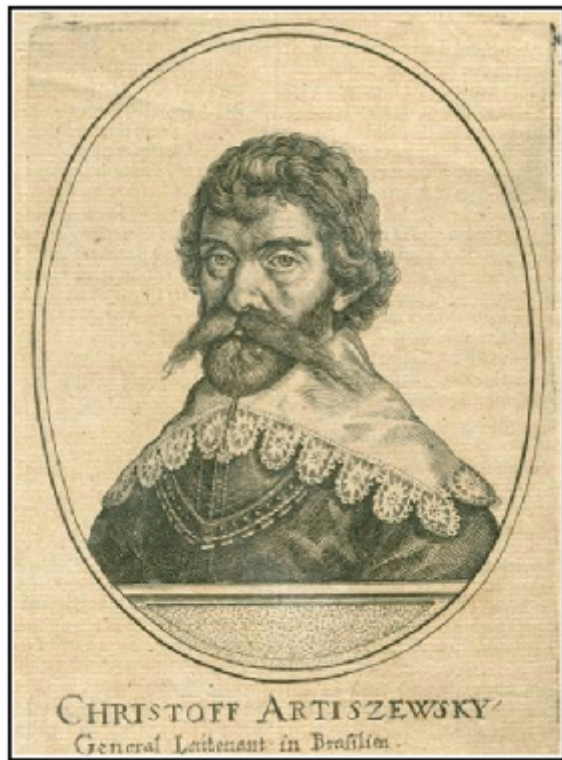


Figure 1

In the recent sale conducted by Dix Noonan and Webb, Lot 1731 was an example of Betts 37. This medal, a memorial to long ago struggles between the Dutch and the Spanish in Brazil, had not sold at auction since 1888. Its rarity alone commands some notice in *The Advisory*. However, as the co-authors waded ever deeper into source material written in Dutch, Spanish, Portuguese and Polish, the story got better and better.

Betts labels his number 37 as “Capture of Larrayal, Brazil”. Van Loon (235/II) references “Larrayal” as well, but there is no such place. Indeed, the medal is not about one event but, rather, it celebrates the bravery of one man over a three year period. The one man is Christopher Artischofski Arciszewski (the name has many spellings), a Polish mercenary of noble birth who served three tours in the Dutch army, the first as a captain, the second as a colonel and the third as Admiral General.

Born in 1592, Artischofski (see figure 1) came from an Arian family whose patriarch was a courtier to Prince Radziwill of Poland. Under the latter’s sponsorship, he received a solid education in the liberal arts followed, in Holland, by an education

in the martial arts, including engineering and cartography. His military career began in the Polish army, in which he served with distinction, but he was forced to flee his home country after murdering a prominent person (shades of John Law).

Envious of the Spanish, the Dutch had decided to build bases for trading in the New World. The northeast coast of Brazil, then controlled by the Portuguese, was one target. In 1629, Artischofski was sent on his first tour as a captain of musketeers. After again distinguishing himself, he returned to Holland as a major. Shortly thereafter, in 1634, he was again sent to Brazil, this time as a colonel in charge of all land forces. There followed a series of brilliant actions including a daring attack on Arrayal (Arraial de Bom Jesus in Portuguese) in 1635, the capture of Porto Calvo in 1636 and other actions that served to secure an extended coastline for the Dutch.

In 1636, the Dutch sent a new governor to Brazil – Prince Jan Maurice de Nassau – with whom Artischofski had disagreements of policy, leading the latter to return to Holland in 1637. There, the Polish-Dutch colonel was feted for his accomplishments, these being memorialized by the medal we will describe below. Thus honored, he returned to Brazil in 1639 as general in charge of all military forces. Upon entering the harbor, his admiral’s pennant was shot away, thus commencing a power struggle with Nassau that ended in Artischofski being stripped of his rank and being sent back to Holland in a small vessel of doubtful seaworthiness. Once there, seemingly against all odds, he labored to clear his good name, but was only partially successful. The States General gave him a complete exoneration but, the West Indies Company, who had awarded him his medal in 1637, did not.

Disgusted with the Dutch, Artischofski returned to his native land, where he served the Polish king – with distinction, as always – in campaigns against the Cossacks and Tartars. He died in Gdansk in 1656, having fought many battles in many lands. An obviously expert military tactician, he was also an innovator in strategy, advocating that land and naval forces be combined under one commander. As a cartographer, he has left a considerable corpus of maps. His humanity is best illustrated by his excellent relations with the various native tribes in Brazil, leading to incisive observations on their beliefs and customs; his notes were later published by Gerhard T. Voss, in one of the first European works to deal with Brazilian ethnography. All in all, it is not hyperbole to describe Artischofski as the prototypical Renaissance man.

The medal itself is an adequate memorial to the occasion:



DNW Example (Census # 6)
Obverse – Figure 2



DNW Example
Obverse – Figure 2

1637. Presentation medal for services rendered to the Dutch West India Company by Colonel Christoffel Artischofski

Obverse: Trophy of arms and shield of Portugal on column in honor of Artischofski (this column was never erected). In the back ground left, Porto Calvo, with a view of Fort Arrayal to the right,

these being the major victories of the three year campaign.

Obverse legend:

HOSTIS HISPAN PROFLIGAT VICTRICEM ACCIPE LAVRVM (*Having conquered the hostile Spaniards, he now accepts the laurels of Victory*).

Reverse inscription:

**HEROI
GENERIS NOBILITATE
ARMORUM ET LITTERARUM
SCIENTIA LONGE PRÆSTANTISSIMO
CHRISTOPH: ABRTISCHAU ARCI
SZEWSKI REB IN BRASILIA PERTRIENNI
PRUDENTISS: FORTISS FELICISS GESTIS
SOCIETAS AMERICANA
SUÆ GRATITUDINIS ET IPSIUS
FORTITUDINIS AC FIDEL. HOC
MONUMENTUM ESSE VOLUIT
ANNO A CHR. NATO
clō lōc xxxvii**

(*To the hero of a noble family, excelling in the knowledge of arms and literature, Christoph Artischau son of Arciszewski, As a joyous gesture for his prudence and courage in Brazil for three years and as a memorial to their gratitude, the West India Company has made this medal, 1637 AD*).

It should be noted that, whereas the obverse of this medal is executed competently, the reverse is sloppily done. Perhaps the work was done by an apprentice or perhaps it was done in great haste in order to be ready for an award ceremony. The low quality of the work can be seen in the re-cut and replaced “S” in SZEWSKI, the “S” IN SCIENTIA and the “G” in GENERIS”:



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6

For all that the Artischofski medal has rarely appeared at auction, we have been able to assemble an appreciable census:

- 1) British Museum (from the collection of George III). AR. 64 mm diameter, 57.18 grams.
- 2) Dutch National Collection. AR. 64 mm diameter, 103.06 grams.
- 3) Dutch National Collection. A second example. AR. 64 mm, 74.57 grams.
- 4) Teylers Museum (Holland), acquired before 1784. AR. 64.3 mm diameter, 57.18 grams.
- 5) Banco Economico de Bahia. 64 mm diameter, 75 grams.
- 6) DNW 7/13/11, lot 1731. AE, cast and gilt. 63.0 mm diameter, 55.1 grams.
- 7) American Numismatic Society. AE, cast. 63 mm diameter, 92.87 grams.
- 8) Dutch National Collection, a third example. AE, cast. 64 mm diameter, 57.65 grams.

9) Berliner Munzkabinet. AE. (Cited in Hermann Maue's biography of Dadler, p86).

10) Museum Hutten-Czapskiego Cracow, Poland. The "SD" variant. Acquired before 1900, but specifics not known AR. 64 mm diameter, 56.38 grams.

The five silver medals are all struck and, presumably, were awarded to those connected with the event commemorated. Whether the issuer was the States General, a city government, or the West India Company, Dutch authorities followed strict guidelines for all awards that were made, specifying number to be issued, weight and intended recipients. The records include a medal in gold, accompanied by a gold chain; it was customary at the time for the recipient to melt one or both, which no doubt accounts for our not being able to locate the piece today

The four base metal specimens listed above are something of a mystery. Upon occasion, an 18th century numismatist selling his collection would retain casts of his favorite pieces. However, given that at least three of the four come from the same matrix, this explanation does not fit. The common source of the three suggests that the original issuer was the source, whatever the motive might have been, although the variation in weight argues that not all were done at the same time. Given that many of the records of the WIC were either discarded or lost in the fire of 1842, no official explanation is likely to be forthcoming.

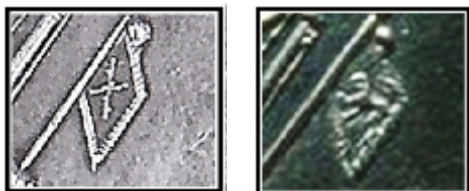
To summarize thus far, we have a description of the medal, we have a biography of the man and his actions, we have a census of known examples and we have a minor mystery regarding the origin of specimens in bronze. However, now let it be told, we also have a major mystery in the form of a SECOND medal (#10 above), now in a museum in Cracow, which is like unto the first but with palpable differences. The most notable difference is that this second medal (Figure 7) is better executed, the reason being that it was done by Sebastian Dadler who signs his "SD" near the base of the column on the obverse.



Whereas the legends on obverse and reverse are the same, the letters are much better placed. Dadler adds a rapier to the clutch of weaponry surrounding the armor:



But perhaps the most significant change is to the flag to the upper right (Figure 8): the Dutch lion has been replaced with what our colleague Tony Lopez believes to be a Burgundy cross but which could be an admiral's pennant or even a personal crest:



Because Dadler did not commence work in Holland until 1641, this medal had to have been executed after the confrontation between Artischowski and Nassau and, indeed, after the West India Company, the sponsor of the original medal, had failed to exonerate their heroic soldier. Honor was a precious concept to a man of Artichowski's character, so it seems logical to theorize that he had the medal re-executed, taking pains to replace the flag of the entities that had insulted him. Dadler's presence in Holland from 1641 to 1654 was a convenience, but his selection may well have been on the recommendation of Prince Radziwill, who employed Dadler in 1636. Radziwill was Artischowski's longtime sponsor, added to which the two men were in close touch during the period following Artischowski's final return to Holland. The fact that the only copy of this medal known ended up in Poland is further confirmation of our theory.

Both van Loon and Betts emphasize the taking of Fort Larrayal in their description of the medal. Upon closer examination, the event fades into insignificance and it becomes clear that it is the man who is being celebrated. The man, Artischowski, is almost larger than life – student, soldier, writer and humanitarian; brave, loyal, and honorable in the broadest sense of that word. This medal is his and should be so known.



Figure 7 – Dadler Obverse (Census # 10)
Museum Hutten-Czapskiego, Krakau
 (Arrows show engraver initials, rapier, and flag)



Figure 7 – Dadler Reverse
Museum Hutten-Czapskiego, Krakau

We would like to introduce our co-author, **Dim Verschoor**, who is an expert on historical medals, recognized on three continents as such. One of several activities in which he is engaged is the firm Munthandel Verschoor, whose website may be depended upon to have an appetizing array of medals sure to be of interest to our membership.

Readers of "The Artischowski Medal" will sense the broad spectrum of source material that lies behind it. We want to acknowledge the unstinting generosity of Tony Lopez, Dr. Fernando Chao (h) and Skyler Liechty in providing such source material, as well as venturing their valued opinions on all aspects of the article. A special thanks to Bob Williams whose expert photographs appear throughout this issue. 🌟

DNW Auction 13 July 2011

by
Christopher Eimer

The auction held in London last week by DNW (Messrs. Dix, Noonan and Webb) was entirely devoted to commemorative, historical and prize medals and contained 1887 lots, the majority coming from a small number of named collections (hammer prices subject to a 20% auction buyer's premium plus VAT; a gross additional sum payable of 24%).

The morning session was concerned primarily with prize, coronation and general medals of British interest, and it kicked-off with another section (of many sold by DNW) of James Spencer's large and fascinating collection of named prize medals, which covers a huge variety of subject-matter and has been some thirty years in the making. This was followed by British coronation and jubilee medals belonging to Reg Lomas, including impressive runs of the 1887 and 1897 jubilee series of Queen Victoria, and the coronation of Edward VII in 1902. These concentrated on the local issues commissioned and distributed by cities, mayoralties and institutions the length and breadth of Britain, and in a few instances the British colonies, celebrating a time when it was proudly claimed, so vast was its stretch; that 'the sun never set on the British Empire'. There followed a second run of British historical medals from the collection of David Corrick, and medals from other sources. Throughout this section, prices were in line with, or proportionately higher than estimate, but there were no real fireworks.

The afternoon session is perhaps of more interest to readers of the *MCA Advisory*, containing the collection of medals relating to the West Indies, put together over a fifty-year period by the late Edward Roehrs. (In September 2010, DNW dispersed the Roehrs collection of cut and countermarked coinage). The material comprised almost 300 Lots and the first grouping listed medals by location, running from the Bahamas to the U.S. Virgin Islands. This was followed by two further sections, the first containing the more general and non-specific medals of the United Kingdom and British Colonies, and the last European material from the early colonial period.

The Roehrs collection offered a large range of material, which included, for example, an ivory portrait medal of John Rotherham the first headmaster of Codrington College in Barbados, dating to the mid-18th century, Lot 1488, £460 (est. £100-150); an engraved silver 'Faithful Service' large slave medal of British Guiana, dated 1814 and named, Lot 1499, £4000 (est. £2000-3000); and a

particularly interesting silver, struck and awarded medal of 1841, for St George's Agricultural and Immigration Society, Jamaica, Lot 1560, £900 (est. £250-300).

There was a very good run of material relating to Admiral Rodney and the actions at 'the Saints', the most glamorous of which were two museum-status open-work oval gold medals, dated 1782 and documenting Rodney's capture of the French ship *Ville de Paris* (Lots 1682 and 1683). Both are thought to be personal presentation pieces and they are known from just a handful of examples; the larger of the two, described as having had some small, skilful repairs, hammered at £10,000 (est. £3000-4000); while the second made £7800 (£2000-2500).



Lot 1682

Included in the Roehrs collection was a strong run of medals relating to the anti-slavery movement (Lots 1687-1712), and prices were strong; particularly a 52 mm. gilt-bronze medal by Davis of 1834 (Lot 1699), with a classic motif of a slave, arms raised in joyous freedom, shackles lying broken at his feet, which made £1550 (est. £200-250). But even the more common white metal anti-slavery medals were subject to much competition.

The celebrated collection of 'Coins and Tokens of the Caribees' belonging to Ray Byrne and dispersed in Los Angeles by Jess Peters in June 1975, contained a number of items acquired subsequently by Edward Roehrs. This included Thomas Dancer's medal awarded by the Royal Society of Arts in 1790 for an 'Account of Cinnamon in Jamaica', which sold in those not-so distant days for \$200 (Lot 896), and which now made £920, Lot 1549 (est. £250-300). The Byrne and Roehrs catalogues serve to illustrate the huge and fascinating variety of numismatic material covered by the West Indies as a subject-matter; while these most recent auction results confirm the continuing passion and abiding interest for the material. ●

Letters to the Editor

Hi John,

The current debate regarding authorship of the Lord Baltimore medals, proves, if nothing else, the worthiness of the *MCA* as an informal forum for the robust exchange of ideas, while it also serves to remind us of the challenges that medals frequently present. It is no doubt for this reason – amongst others - that they continue to captivate our interest.

I hope that this finds you and Regina well!

Best wishes,

Chris

• • • •

From: Warren Lloyd
To: Adams, John
Subject: MCA & Franco-American Jetons

John - quite an article, and wonderful photos of your Franco-American Jetons. Should prove to be a valuable reference for collectors. Some 43 years ago - according to my ledger book, I purchased a couple silver French Jetons, but no, not the Franco-American series. Been a while since I last viewed them – but apparently from 1734 and 1774. Great photo of the Vernon medal, NLv 2-B. Second time I have missed that one, perhaps next time. An amazing design on the proposed MCA medal. Surely, should sell out.

Warren

• • • •

Admiral Vernon Medals

From: Warren Lloyd
To: Adams, John
Subject: Admiral Vernon

John - With the recent addition of PBvi 9-J and FCv 6-E the Admiral Vernon collection has grown to 145 different. Question - when is the NY International Coin Show next January? I tried locating the dates online, but did not find them. Warren

• • • •

From: Simmons Coins
To: Adams, John
Subject: Duke of Argyll

Dear Mr. Adams,

I have just found this medal and although it is not great condition I thought that you may be interested. It is NLv9-F and you have only recorded 2 in your census.

All the best
Howard Simmons

• • • •

Good morning, Mr. S. - Very possibly an exciting discovery. Can you make out any part of I:GILES on the obverse ? If so, send the piece along and it will make a happy addition! My best, John

• • • •

From: Simmons Coins
To: Adams, John
Subject: Re: Duke of Argyll NLv9

Dear Mr. Adams,

Unfortunately it is not clear, I think I can see the G and the possibly the final S under the foot with magnification and the right light (not to mention a following wind...) I assumed it was there because if the name was added (not taken away) then the die crack behind Vernon's leg means that this is even later -The die damage extends to the exergue area adding to the lack of clarity. The die is very nearly terminal in terms of usage.

Will send on approval in the next few days because I think you need to look at it close up.

All the best
Howard Simmons

• • • •

From: Warren Lloyd
To: Adams, John
Subject: Admiral Vernon PBv 2

John - I thought you might enjoy seeing my PBv 21-R Admiral Vernon medal. Not quite as nice as the one in your book; however, a rare variety with the "ONDUCT" spelling on the reverse side.

Warren



PBv 21-R Obverse



PBv 21-R Reverse

MCA Chicago Club Meeting

ANA Chicago

On Thursday, August 18th, President John Sallay convened a meeting of MCA members. An early order of business was to introduce the incoming President, David Menchell, and the election of Skyler Liechty to take David's place as Vice President. All other officers and directors remain unchanged, with John Sallay rotating to a position on the Board.

John Adams announced the completion of MCA's first ever club medal. An example of this truly gorgeous creation was circulated to those in attendance. A spontaneous motion was made to convey the gratitude and admiration of the Club to those who executed the medal, Alexander Shagin and Gerard Muhl. Both of these gentlemen had donated their time as well as their talents to the project.

David Alexander rose to describe his new book on American art medals, published by the American Numismatic Society. It is hoped that we will receive a review of this work for our October issue. The ANS intends to follow up with a book by Scott Miller on medals produced by the Society. Both these works fall in the "must own" category for most of our membership.

Serving as the piece de resistance of the meeting, Skyler Liechty (in person) and Tony Lopez (linked in by Skype) gave us a riveting presentation on advanced research techniques that they have developed. The talk began with a listing of the most useful websites (which appears below) and methods of phrasing queries to these sources. There followed a live demonstration of methodology to enhance images (this was the technique that led to the discovery of Thomas Simon's "S" on Betts 35). Similar technology was then employed to analyze the Poggini medals, Betts 1 through 8. This series can be particularly confusing coming, as they do, signed and unsigned, cast and struck, in bronze and in silver. Those fortunate to hear Mssrs. Lopez and Liechty received an advanced education.

The meeting adjourned to cocktails and dinner, an event planned by Anne Bentley. Although not as well attended as last year's affair in Boston, the opportunity to converse with fellow enthusiasts on an informal basis is a welcome treat.

Useful Research Websites

- <http://www.archive.org/>
- <http://books.google.com/>
- <http://numismatics.org/search/>
- <http://www.mcsearch.info/>
- <http://www.coinarchives.com/>
- <http://www.neocollect.com/>
- <http://www.historicalartmedals.com/>
- <http://www.christophereimer.co.uk/>
- <http://www.medalcollectors.org/>
- <http://www.stacksarchive.com/>
- <http://legacy.stacks.com/>





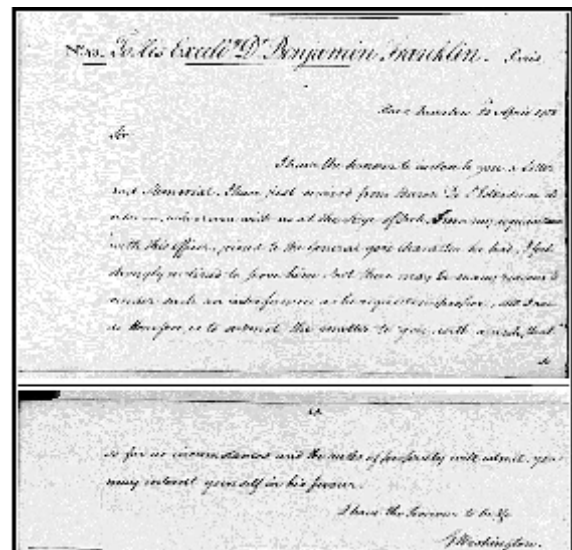
Artischofski Medal – Obverse
(Census # 2)
Dutch National Collection



Artischofski Medal – Reverse
(Census #2)
Dutch National Collection



Lt. Colonel Claude-Amable-Vincent de Requeplan
Baron l' Estrade
Ordre Royal et Militaire de Saint-Louis
Regiment de Gatinois, Yorktown, October 14, 1781



Letter from George Washington to
Dr. Benjamin Franklin recommending Baron l' Estrade
(Washington's Diary)
April 23, 1783